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EXAMINER

PILLAI, NAMITHA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/738,275

Applicant(s)

HAYES-ROTH, BARBARA

Examiner

Namitha Pillai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-80 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-80 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-80 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract is objected to for exceeding 150 words.

2. A substitute specification is required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.125(a) because: The spacing of the lines of the specification is such as to make reading and entry of amendments difficult.

New application papers with lines double spaced on good quality paper are required.

A substitute specification filed under 37 CFR 1.125(a) must only contain subject matter from the original specification and any previously entered amendment under 37 CFR 1.121. If the substitute specification contains additional subject matter not of record, the substitute specification must be filed under 37 CFR 1.125(b) and must be accompanied by: 1) a statement that the substitute specification contains no new matter; and 2) a marked-up copy showing the amendments to be made via the substitute specification relative to the specification at the time the substitute specification is filed.

### ***Claim Objections***

3. Claims 1-80 are objected to because of the following informalities: All claims must be uniformly aligned. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-7, 9-13, 15-25 and 27-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6, 522, 333 B1 (Hatlelid et al.).

Referring to claim 1, Hatlelid discloses a means for authoring content of a computer-controlled agent, wherein this agent is used to visually represent a user (column 6, lines 13-19). Hatlelid discloses allowing users to describe potential context of an agent, by describing the personality type, this type being a potential context (column 6, line 16). Hatlelid also discloses receiving this content for the agent, in the form of potential context from the user who is authoring the information (column 6, lines 64-67). Hatlelid then discloses storing this content such that the content can be accessed by a run-time system, the run-time clearly showing how based on the message sent, the content is used to control a behavior of the agent in an actual context, which occurs during an operation of the agent, with the actual context, the actual behavior of the agent, matching with the potential behavior context that had been indicated the user who was authoring this agent. See column 7, lines 17-35.

Referring to claim 2, Hatlelid discloses allowing the user to input for determining the potential context during operation of the agent (column 6, lines 16-19).

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Referring to claims 3 and 4, Hatlelid discloses that the input communicates a message, which effects a social transaction (column 2, lines 19-22).

Referring to claims 5, 6 and 7, Hatlelid discloses that message can be a question, comment (column 7, lines 62-63) and represents a request for help, wherein help is sought by the user sending out the message "ow!" (column 2, lines 45-47).

Referring to claim 9, Hatlelid discloses that the message refers to the mood of the agent (column 2, lines 20-27).

Referring to claim 10, Hatlelid discloses that the mood comprises an emotion, a manner, an attitude, a style and a feeling (Figures 10A and 10B).

Referring to claims 11 and 12, Hatlelid discloses that the message communicates a mood of the user, the mood being one of an emotion, a manner, an attitude, a style and a feeling (column 2, lines 22-27).

Referring to claim 13, Hatlelid discloses that the message refers to an application (column 4, lines 56-59 and column 7, line 1).

Referring to claim 15, Hatlelid discloses that the input communicates a gesture by the user (column 3, lines 29-34).

Referring to claim 16, Hatlelid discloses that the input comprises at least one of typed words (column 2, lines 20-22).

Referring to claims 17 and 18, Hatlelid discloses that the input comprises selection from a menu, with the selection of the item being on a display (column 4, lines 4-5 and Figure 7).

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Referring to claim 19, Hatlelid discloses that the behavioral characteristics described for the agents, referred to as the potential context comprises an internal event of the agent (column 19, lines 48-51).

Referring to claim 20, Hatlelid discloses that the internal event represents a change in an agent-mood of the agent (column 19, lines 62-63).

Referring to claim 21, Hatlelid discloses that the change is of a specified magnitude (column 19, line 55).

Referring to claim 22, Hatlelid discloses that the change in the events represents a change along a plurality of underlying mood dimensions (column 19, lines 27-33).

Referring to claim 23, Hatlelid discloses that the internal event represents a change in an assumed user-mood of a user, wherein the text typed in by user is analyzed to form events that represent the current mood of the user and represents this mood in the events (column 19, lines 64-67 and column 20, lines 1-7).

Referring to claim 24, Hatlelid discloses that the event refers to a performance of a speech act by the agent, as seen by the examples (column 19, lines 39-45).

Referring to claim 25, Hatlelid discloses that the event refers to a message from the agent (column 19, line 52).

Referring to claim 27, Hatlelid discloses that the internal event refers to an action of the agent (column 19, line 54).

Referring to claims 28 and 41, Hatlelid discloses displaying an animation of the agent, as seen in Figure 2a, an operation of an application, wherein this application includes a browser which is used for sending and receiving information through TCP/IP connections, with a network

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such as the Internet (column 4, lines 56-63), a presentation of a menu as see in Figure 7 and the presentations all being shown of a display, without which it would not be possible to show the menus and the chat sessions, as seen in Figures 2 and 7.

Referring to claim 29, Hatlelid discloses that the internal events refer to an itinerary of the agent, wherein the choreography sequence referred to by Hatlelid represents the itinerary of the agent (column 19, lines 13-20 and lines 48-51).

Referring to claim 30, Hatlelid discloses that the itinerary has a plurality of stops and the event nodes refer to particular stops from these plurality of stops (column 19, lines 18-27).

Referring to claim 31, Hatlelid discloses that the particular stops, represented as control markers for controlling the sequence, wherein the event nodes comprises an agenda and the event refers to an agenda, as listed by Hatlelid (column 19, lines 24-27 and column 19, lines 50-62).

Referring to claim 32, Hatlelid discloses that the agenda has a plurality of steps that must be carried out, and wherein the event refers to a particular step among the steps, the events being the animation of the agent (column 19, lines 50-62).

Referring to claim 33, Hatlelid discloses a particular step comprising a plurality of actions, the plurality of actions depicted as the plurality of nodes, wherein the event refers to one of the nodes amongst the plurality of these nodes (column 19, lines 48-51 and column 20, lines 4-7).

Referring to claim 34, Hatlelid discloses that the action can be facial movements, which entail a speech act, gesture, change mood (column 20, lines 7-18). Hatlelid discloses storing information to a database, which includes writing to a database (column 20, lines 18-21).

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Hatlelid discloses launching a browser application involving client/server relationship with TCP/IP connections, wherein a browser command would include sending out invitations for user to join in a communication session (column 4, lines 56-67 and column 5, lines 1-5).

Referring to claims 35 and 36, Hatlelid discloses that the potential context comprises an internal state of the agent, wherein the state represents the mood of the agent (column 2, lines 20-30).

Referring to claim 37, Hatlelid discloses that the state of the user represents the assumed mood based on the selections made by the user (column 2, lines 22-30).

Referring to claim 38, Hatlelid discloses intervals and changes in dimension made to define the volume or intensity of the mood (column 14, lines 15-17).

Referring to claim 39, Hatlelid discloses that the internal state refers to a message from the agent (column 2, lines 22-23).

Referring to claim 40, Hatlelid discloses that the internal state refers to an action of the agent (column 2, lines 25-27).

Referring to claim 42, Hatlelid discloses that the internal state of the agent refers to an itinerary of the agent (column 5, lines 15-21).

Referring to claim 43, Hatlelid discloses that the potential context for an agent includes a plurality of elements such as personality types, gestures and moods (column 6, lines 14-26).

Referring to claim 44, Hatlelid discloses that the plurality of elements includes a context element pre-defined for the author to select from (Figure 7 and column 4, lines 4-5).

Referring to claim 45, Hatlelid discloses that the plurality of elements includes a context element defined by the author (column 4, lines 8-11 and column 6, lines 19-21).



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Referring to claim 46, Hatlelid discloses that the plurality of elements include a context element predefined for the author, which are the personality types (Figure 7 and column 4, lines 4-5) and a second context element more specifically defined by the author, which are the scaled mood settings (column 4, lines 8-11 and column 6, lines 19-21).

Referring to claim 47, Hatlelid discloses that the potential context is identified for the author in a graphical interface as shown in Figure 7.

Referring to claim 48, Hatlelid discloses that the graphical interface provides a labeled slot allowing the author to describe the content by filling the slot with text (Description and Text Box, Figure 9B).

Referring to claim 49, Hatlelid discloses that the graphical interface provides a menu of items allowing the author to describe the content by selecting one of the items from the menu (Figure 7).

Referring to claim 50, Hatlelid discloses providing graphical interface with a gesture table of gesture contexts (Figure 10a and column 15, lines 1-4), allowing the author to specify a particular gesture context in which a particular gesture can be chosen and hence performed by identifying a location in the gesture table (column 15, lines 15-20).

Referring to claim 51, as seen by the table of Figure 10a in Hatlelid, the gesture table includes a dimension representing a plurality of moods.

Referring to claim 52, as seen in Figure 9B, the graphical interface provides many icons representing functions, allowing the author to describe content by selecting a function, concerning, gestures, phrases and other functions.

Referring to claim 53, Hatlelid discloses a function specifying an interaction with an external system, wherein the interaction of a client with a server, suggests an external system (column 4, lines 61-64).

Referring to claim 54, Hatlelid discloses that the external system can be a browser, suggested by the client/server system and the TCP/IP connections wherein the user can send and receive data, a database which is represented as the server in Hatlelid and an application, which the user launches to present the visual needed to carry out the invention (column 4, lines 56-67).

Referring to claim 55, Hatlelid discloses delivering dialogue during an operation of the agent (column 2, lines 20-30).

Referring to claim 56, Hatlelid discloses that the dialogue is created explicitly by the author (column 2, lines 20-23).

Referring to claim 57, Hatlelid does include that the dialogue includes a variable, which may be replaced by a value selected from a specified group of alternative values (column 14, lines 55-65).

Referring to claim 58, Hatlelid does disclose that there is a specification of a manner of timing of the dialogue, wherein it is specified that the timing concerning this variable would include this session or specific utterance (column 14, lines 57-65).

Referring to claim 59, Hatlelid does disclose the condition under which this dialogue is delivered, the condition being that this dialogue with the variable be delivered only for this one session or specific utterance (column 14, lines 57-65).

Referring to claim 60, Hatlelid discloses that the content as seen in Figure 2a of the discussion, does enable the users to tell a story.

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Referring to claim 61, Hatlelid discloses that the content enables the agent to ask a question of a user (column 7, lines 62-64).

Referring to claim 62, Hatlelid discloses as seen by the content of the interaction between the two users of Figure 2a, that the dialogue that is carried on is based on one of the user's response to the question asked by the other user.

Referring to claim 63, Hatlelid discloses that content allows the agent to choose among a plurality of alternative dialogue options, the options being depicted in column 19, lines 40-45.

Referring to claim 64, Hatlelid discloses enabling the agent to perform a gesture during an operation of the agent (column 3, lines 29-34).

Referring to claim 65, Hatlelid discloses the change of mood during an operation of the agent, wherein if the user wishes to change to expression of hurt, the message along with the mood of the agent is changed to communicate the message of hurt (column 2, lines 45-47).

Referring to claim 66, Hatlelid discloses changing a value of a precondition during an operation of the agent (column 14, lines 55-65).

Referring to claim 67, Hatlelid discloses that the agent must interact with an external system during the operation of the agent, in order to communicate through the messages (column 4, lines 55-65).

Referring to claim 68, Hatlelid discloses a itinerary, represented as the choreography sequence, which the agent will follow having a sequence of control markers, representing the stops, which control the sequence of the itinerary (column 5, lines 15-21 and column 19, lines 24-27).

Referring to claim 69, Hatlelid discloses that the sequence of stops for an agent, wherein the agent upon interacting with another user determines when to be idle and stop the sequence of movements, wherein the agent is idle and has stopped any actions, as specified by the selections made by the author (column 10, lines 50-52).

Referring to claim 70, Hatlelid discloses that these sequences of stops are specified by the author (column 10, lines 50-52).

Referring to claim 71, Hatlelid discloses that these stops are influenced by the preconditions selections made concerning the mood (column 10, lines 51-52).

Referring to claim 72, Hatlelid discloses the content enables the agent to follow an agenda, comprising a sequence of steps, each of the steps being represented as the sequence nodes (column 19, lines 18-20).

Referring to claim 73, Hatlelid discloses that the choreography sequence known as the sequence of steps is determined by the selections made concerning the characteristics and mood of the users, thereby the author or user specifying the steps to be carried out (column 5, lines 15-21 and column 6, lines 14-26).

Referring to claim 74, Hatlelid discloses that the sequence of steps is influenced by an interaction with a user during an operation of the agent, as specified by the author, wherein the steps are recited based on the operation of the agent and the specifications made by the author for the personality (column 20, lines 1-30).

Referring to claim 75, Hatlelid discloses that these sequence of steps are influenced by a precondition and mood that are set (column 6, lines 14-22).

Referring to claim 76, Hatlelid discloses that the content is persona content (column 2, line 20).

Referring to claim 77, Hatlelid does disclose content being accessed by the user, which is application content (column 4, lines 56-61).

Referring to claim 78, Hatlelid discloses that the agent engages in natural language conversation with another user, the potential conversation context is the potential context chosen by the user, content is the conversation content, "Hello!" being one example, the behavior is the conversation behavior, the hand waving and smile being the behavior, and the actual context is the actual conversation context which has taken place, the example being the text "Hello!" with the hand waving and smile (column 2, lines 20-30).

Referring to claim 79, Hatlelid discloses a means for authoring a computer-controlled agent to play a specified role in interaction with a user (column 6, lines 64-67). Hatlelid discloses identifying the logical structure of the interaction, through a sequence of interaction stages (column 5, lines 15-21). Hatlelid discloses that for each of the stages identifying the structure of the interactive behaviors of the agent and the user, as seen in Figure 14c (column 20, lines 4-7). Hatlelid also discloses that for each of these logical structures identifying the potential context of the agent for an author, the potential context referring to the selected behavioral characteristics (column 20, lines 7-10). Hatlelid also receiving content for the agent in potential context from the author, the receiving being the selection made the author (column 20, lines 7-10). Hatlelid clearly in the section of column 20, discloses how the logical structures use the stored content described by the author identifying the potential context, and using this to control the behavior of the agent in an actual context which occurs during operation of the agent,

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and wherein the actual context matches the potential context, selected by the author (column 20, lines 7-18).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 8, 14, 26 and 80 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable and obvious over Hatlelid.

Referring to claim 8, Hatlelid discloses that the message area can accept messages that refer to various types of information, in order for the users to communicate with each other (column 6, lines 27-30). Hatlelid discloses the items being shown as messages consisting of biographical information of the agents and the users, this information being the personality that the user chooses to depict the agent (column 6, lines 14-15). As seen, by Figure 2a, there can be chat topics, that is a referred to in the messages shown in the text box, the chat topic being conversation between the two users discussing their moods. Also seen by this Figure, and the motions of the agents, the behavior of the agent is also referred to in these messages, these messages including the received messages from the agent. It is also inherent by looking at the display of Figure 2a, that these messages are involved with a display and that these messages are involved with an interaction between the user and the agent. The user typing in the messages and the agent depicting this message through words and actions. Hatlelid does not disclose using a Web site when referring to messages that are selected or depicted. But Hatlelid does disclose

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that any type of utterance may be disclosed which would allow for users to communicate with each other. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to use a Web site as one of the times that is referred to in the messages, in a conversation between two users. Users often discuss all types of topics and a Web site could such a topic, wherein the messages refer to a Web site that is the referred to item in a message. Hence, one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention would have been motivated to use a Web site as one of the items referred to in the messages, to include all sorts of items that users may refer to in their messages in order to better communicate with each other.

Referring to claim 14, Hatlelid discloses the user inputting a message, wherein the user must refer to an application in order to launch the visual representation (column 4, lines 55-60). Hatlelid is referring to the user choosing a type of application which would allow for the user to set up the agent and then go on to communicate with other users and agents. Hatlelid does not specifically state the application type, as recited in the claims. The application, wherein referred to can be any type of application which would benefit from a user and receipt sending and receiving data from each other. The manner in which this input message would be inputted would involve the user picking and launching an application, wherein this application can represent one of many choices that can be launched. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to specify that the applications being launched through the user input would be a search engine, e-commerce system, a registration process and a simulation. The applications being launched can include any type which would include the visual representation as stated in Hatlelid's disclosure and Figure 2a, and amongst these applications can include the specific applications, recited in these claims.

Referring to claim 26, Hatlelid discloses that the message area can accept messages that refer to various types of information, in order for the users to communicate with each other (column 6, lines 27-30). Hatlelid discloses social transaction as seen in Figure 2a. Hatlelid discloses the items being shown as messages consisting of biographical information of the agents and the users, this information being the personality that the user chooses to depict the agent (column 6, lines 14-15). Hatlelid discloses an agent mood of the agent, as shown by the actions of the agents representing the moods within the messages and by the disclosure of a mood selection being made for the agents (column 6, lines 19-22), wherein the assumed user-mood of the user also refers to the mood that has been selected referring to the messages. As seen, by Figure 2a, there can be chat topics, that is a referred to in the messages shown in the text box, the chat topic being conversation between the two users discussing their moods. Hatlelid discloses that the message refers to an application (column 4, lines 56-59 and column 7, line 1). It is also inherent by looking at the display of Figure 2a, that these messages are with an interaction between the user and the agent, with the user inputting the text messages and the agent displaying the capability, showing this capability by depicting the moods and behavior set by the user. Hatlelid does not disclose using a Web site when referring to messages that are selected or depicted. But Hatlelid does disclose that any type of utterance may be disclosed which would allow for users to communicate with each other. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to use a Web site as one of the times that is referred to in the messages, in a conversation between two users. Users often discuss all types of topics and a Web site could such a topic, wherein the messages refer to a Web site that is the referred to item in a message. Hence, one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention would have been



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motivated to use a Web site as one of the items referred to in the messages, to include all sorts of items that users may refer to in their messages in order to better communicate with each other.

Referring to claim 80, Hatlelid discloses creating any kind of characters based on the behavioral characteristics chosen by the user, as seen by the examples shown in Figures 2, these roles specify a messenger role, and wherein all the characters described do fall under the representation of messenger roles, wherein each of the characters serve the purpose of being a messenger to the user. Hatlelid does not disclose specifically a sales assistant role, a learning guide role, a customer service role, a survey administrator role, a web site host role, a game opponent role and a marketing agent role, as stated in the claims. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to disclose the specific roles that can be created in Hatlelid's invention. Hatlelid has provided a means for creating these specific roles and has implied the messenger role that is obvious in such a chat system (Figure 2a). It would have been obvious for Hatlelid to create these specific roles through the interface and options that have been given to the user to create a customized agent.

### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach a method for creating animated objects.

Responses to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington D.C. 20231. If applicant desires to fax a response, (703) 746-7238 may be used for formal After Final communications, (703) 746-7239 for Official

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communications, or (703) 746-7240 for Non-Official or draft communications. NOTE: A Request for Continuation (Rule 60 or 62) cannot be faxed. Please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT" for informal facsimile communications. For after final responses, please label "AFTER FINAL" or "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE" on the document. Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist). Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (703) 305-7691. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116.

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.

Namitha Pillai  
Assistant Examiner  
Art Unit 2173  
June 11, 2003

  
**RAYMOND J. BAYERL**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
**ART UNIT 2173**